UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/1997/1
11 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Sixteenth session
13-31 January 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the seventh meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies.

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

8. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

9. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixteenth session.

96-36350 (E) 301296 311296

/...

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Opening of the session

The sixteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee

According to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration contained in that rule.

Item 3. Election of officers

The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur for a term of two years, according to rules 13 and 14 of its rules of procedure and to article 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The term of the officers elected by the Committee at its fourteenth session, on 16 January 1995, expires on 12 January 1997. Under rule 43, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, if there is an agreed slate, the candidates may be elected by acclamation, without the holding of a secret ballot.

Item 4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its fifteenth session the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its sixteenth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: working group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and working group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1997/1)

Item 5. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the seventh meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the seventh meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, the Third Committee of the General Assembly during the fifty-first session, and other meetings related to the work of the Committee. In addition, other members of the Committee attended meetings on behalf of the Chairperson, including the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

Documentation

Report of the seventh meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies (A/51/482)

Item 6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party to the Convention did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select the report of another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which the report had been received.

At its fifteenth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors,

decided to consider at its sixteenth session a total of eight reports of States parties: four initial reports, two second periodic reports and two third periodic reports. Four States parties - Argentina, Equatorial Guinea, Israel and Zaire - indicated that they were unable to present their reports. After consultation with the chair, the Secretariat included Morocco, which was on the reserve list, and approached four other States parties - Bangladesh, Denmark, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Of the four States parties approached, Denmark and Venezuela agreed to report.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Morocco (CEDAW/C/MOR/1) and Slovenia (CEDAW/C/SVN/1); the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3 and Add.1); the second and third periodic reports of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/2 and CEDAW/C/TUR/3); the third periodic reports of Denmark (CEDAW/C/DEN/3), the Philippines (CEDAW/C/PHI/3) and Venezuela (CEDAW/C/VEN/3); and the third and fourth periodic reports of Canada (CEDAW/C/CAN/3 and CEDAW/C/CAN/4).

A tentative timetable for the consideration of the reports of States parties by the Committee is given in the proposed organization of work (see annex).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of the States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State party's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixteenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its sixteenth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/2).

The Committee had decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the sixteenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 6 to 10 January 1997.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/2)

Initial report of Morocco (CEDAW/C/MOR/1)

Initial report of Slovenia (CEDAW/C/SVN/1)

Combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3 and Add.1)

Second and third periodic reports of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/2 and CEDAW/C/TUR/3)

Third periodic report of Denmark (CEDAW/C/DEN/3)

Third periodic report of the Philippines (CEDAW/C/PHI/3)

Third periodic report of Venezuela (CEDAW/C/VEN/3)

Third and fourth periodic reports of Canada (CEDAW/C/CAN/3 and CEDAW/C/CAN/4)

Item 7. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its sixteenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1997/3 and Add.1-4).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

It also decided to prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention to assist in the formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles.

At its fifteenth session, the Committee agreed to continue consideration at its sixteenth session of the draft general recommendation on articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the basis of a working paper prepared at its thirteenth session (CEDAW/C/1994/WG.II/WP.1) and discussion at its fifteenth session, as well as an additional text to be prepared and supplied to members in the working languages of the Committee in advance of the sixteenth session. The Committee will have available to it the report on articles 7 and 8 of the Secretariat prepared for the thirteenth session (CEDAW/C/1994/4).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1997/3)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/3/Add.1)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/3/Add.3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1997/3/Add.4)

Draft general recommendation on articles 7 and 8 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.II/WP.1)

Item 8. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1997/5). Included in this report is an analysis of the practice of other human rights treaty bodies in receiving information from non-governmental organizations and participation of the latter in the meeting of treaty bodies, as requested by the Committee in its decision 15/II.

At its fifteenth session, the Committee recommended a number of actions directed at improving the effectiveness of its work. The Committee also decided to continue at its sixteenth session its review of the rules of procedure and requested a member of the Committee to update the rules of procedure in order to continue its consideration of the revisions to rules at the sixteenth session.

The Committee will have before it a working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1).

The Committee also requested the Secretariat to provide a report that would facilitate discussion of reservations. The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretariat on reservations to the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/4).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on reservations to the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/4)

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1997/5)

Working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Item 9. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. It also decided that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee in its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Committee

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixteenth session

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

ANNEX

Proposed organization of work

Date		Agenda item
Monday, 13 January 1997		
310th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session
	Item 2	Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee
	Item 3	Election of officers
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Composition of Working Groups I and II, mandate for Working Groups I and II
	Item 5	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the seventh meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies
311th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 7	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
	Item 8	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
		Working groups I and II

Note. The rooms in which meetings will take place will be indicated in the daily Journal.

Date	Agenda item	
Tuesday, 14 January 1997		
312th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Morocco, initial report (CEDAW/C/MOR/1) Introduction by State party's representative Questions by experts
313th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Morocco, initial report (CEDAW/C/MOR/1) (continued)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 15 January 1997		
314th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Slovenia, initial report (CEDAW/C/SVN/1) Introduction by State party's representative Questions by experts
315th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Slovenia, initial report (CEDAW/C/SVN/1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)

Date		Agenda item
Thursday, 16 January 1997		
316th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3 and Add.1) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts Questions by experts
317th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3 and Add.1) (continued)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Friday, 17 January 1997		
318th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Turkey, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TUR/2 and CEDAW/C/TUR/3) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
319th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Turkey, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TUR/2 and CEDAW/C/TUR/3) (continued)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)

Date		Agenda item
Monday, 20 January 1997		
320th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Morocco)
321st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Slovenia)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Tuesday, 21 January 1997		
322nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
3 p.m.	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 22 January 1997		
323rd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Venezuela, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/VEN/3)
324th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Venezuela, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/VEN/3) (continued)
Thursday, 23 January 1997		
10 a.m.	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
3 p.m.	Item 6	Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments (initial reports)

Date		Agenda item
Friday, 24 January 1997		
325th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Denmark, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/DEN/3) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
326th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Denmark, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/DEN/3) (continued)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 27 January 1997		
327th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Philippines, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/PHI/3) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
328th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Philippines, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/PHI/3) (continued)
	Items 7 and 8	Working Groups I and II (continued)

Date		Agenda item
Tuesday, 28 January 1997		
329th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Canada, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CAN/3 and CEDAW/C/CAN/4) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
330th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Canada, third and fourth period reports (CEDAW/C/CAN/3 and CEDAW/C/CAN/4) (continued)
Wednesday, 29 January 1997		
10 a.m.	Item 6	Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments on second, third and fourth periodic reports
3 p.m.	Item 6	Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments on second, third and fourth periodic reports
Thursday, 30 January 1997		
331st meeting 10 a.m.	Item 7	Report of Working Group II (concluded)
	Item 8	Report of Working Group I (concluded)
	Item 9	Draft provisional agenda for the seventeenth session
	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments on second, third and fourth periodic reports

Date		Agenda item
Friday, 31 January 1997		
332nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 10	Adoption of the report
333rd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 10	Adoption of the report